

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating a message over a data path, the method comprising:

forming a plurality of individual data segments together representing the message, each data segment having control data;

transferring the data segments over the data path;

characterized in that the quality of the data path is estimated and the format of each data segment is selected from one of a plurality of available segment formats in dependence on the quality of the data path and wherein the available segment formats differ in the amount of control data that they include.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method comprises selecting one or more segment formats that include a greater amount of control data increasingly when the indicated quality decreases.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the available segment formats include a first format including a first amount of control data and a second format including a second amount of control data, the second amount being less than the first amount, and wherein the method comprises selecting the first format with increasing frequency when the indicated quality of the link decreases.

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data segments are packets.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the control data is comprised in a header and/or trailer of each packet.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the available segment formats include a first format including a first amount of control data and a second format including a second amount of control data, the second amount being less than the first amount, and wherein the method comprises selecting the first format

with increasing frequency when the indicated quality of the link decreases, and further wherein the first format is a format having a non-compressed header and the second format is a format having a compressed header.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality of the data path is estimated by means of one or more of the following measures; signal to interference ratio, bit error rate, power loss over the data path, required transmission power of the data path, delay over the data path.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data path includes a portion over which no bit error correction protocol is applied.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data path includes a portion constituted by a radio link.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data segments are formed and transferred according to one or more of the following protocols; TCP, IP, UDP, RTP.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each packet includes message data representing at least part of the message.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the available segment formats do not differ in their ability to comprise message data.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the control data of each segment includes first control data for permitting control of the transmission and/or reception of the segment and second control data for permitting detection and/or correction of errors in the first control data.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the available segment formats including greater amounts of first control data include greater amounts of second control data.

15. (Previously Presented) A communication system for communicating a message over a data path, comprising:

data forming apparatus for forming a plurality of individual data segments together representing the message, each data segment having control data;

data transfer apparatus capable of transmitting the data segments over the data path;

characterised in having:

path quality estimation apparatus for estimating the quality of the path and in the data forming apparatus the format of each data segment being selected from one of a plurality of available segment formats in dependence on the quality of the data path wherein the available segment formats differ in the amount of control data that they include.